

BULLETIN
of

The Maritime Library Association

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The President's Letter

Spring is in the air. Seed catalogs are everywhere, and it is good news to know that orders are being taken for Dutch bulbs for next year. It is to be hoped that the extra energy that more sun will bring will inspire all members of the M.L.A. to send in their membership fees.

While on the subject of fees, it would be a good thing to consider the importance of paying our dues to the American Library Association. Those of us who are not already members might pause to consider the great service the A.L.A. renders. In the broad international field it is giving constructive leadership in many parts of the world. Its plans for the re-establishment of libraries in countries devastated by war reflect its constructive approach to the biggest problems. The A.L.A. has always had a "good neighbor" policy towards Canada, and we appreciate the courteous attention they have always given to our inquiries before there was any Canadian Library Council. Their publications form so indispensable a part of library "tools" that we take them for granted as we do bread and water. For all these, and many more reasons, now is the time either to join the A.L.A. or send along this year's dues if we belong already. The address is; A.L.A. Membership Committee, 520 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, U.S.A.

It is a great pleasure to welcome Miss Bateson back from Jamaica to the Maritimes. Jamaica's loss is our gain. Miss Bateson, like the A.L.A., is an international ambassador. Let us keep our fingers crossed that we shall be able to keep her here where the need is so great. If she is called away from time to time to give advice and make plans for library service for large areas, perhaps she will manage to make this part of the world her headquarters. It is encouraging to see that in different parts of the province there is a real interest in the establishment of regional libraries after the war. This month the Mayor of Halifax is calling a meeting of citizens interested in the building of a public library as a war memorial. Perhaps our problems are not so great compared with those of Jamaica. At least, they are different. When Miss Bateson's Library Plan for Jamaica is printed anyone wishing to read it may borrow it from the N.S. Regional Libraries Commission, 84 Hollis St., Halifax, N.S.

Marion Gilroy

JAMAICA AND ITS LIBRARY PROSPECTS

Nora Bateson, Director of Libraries,
Nova Scotia Regional Libraries Commission

Greetings to the members of the Maritime Library Association! I am glad to be back in Nova Scotia but sorry to leave the sunshine and flowers and the warm hearts of Jamaica!

Jamaica is a land with many problems: poverty and illiteracy and the social evils that follow in their wake. It is only one hundred years removed from slavery; the population is, except for a sprinkling of East Indians, predominately black or coloured with only one percent white. Since 1938, however, there has been a great awakening of the people and leaders have been thrown up who would be accounted great in any country at any time. The educated section of the population is passionately interested in Jamaican affairs. Their demand for some degree of self-government was met by the grant of a new constitution with universal adult suffrage and a new House of Representatives was elected on that basis last December. The British Government has shown itself ready to meet the aspirations of Jamaicans in other ways and through Colonial Development and Welfare it has sent experts in the fields of agriculture, local government, education, social welfare, to confer with the people and to make plans for reconstruction in these fields. When the plans are adopted by the Jamaican Government grants of money will be made, some have already been made, to carry out the plans. These reports and plans are printed and widely distributed. They are the subject of lively discussion in the press and elsewhere. Self-government and the handling of their own affairs are shining new prospects for Jamaicans and there is a corresponding eager and alert interest in all matters of public concern. Because of the lack of adequate education facilities and the poverty of large masses of the people intelligent interest in public affairs is restricted to a comparatively small educated group but they are interested in the raising of the economic and educational level of the masses of their people.

I went there, as you know, to make a plan for Libraries. The response which my suggestions and final plan received was most encouraging. From the Governor down to the members of the local government boards it was the subject of interested discussions and warm interest. One did not need to labour the point that libraries are not a frill to progress but a fundamental necessity for the education and informing of a people moving towards self-government.

Because of the limited financial resources of the Island and because of the extent of illiteracy I suggested one library for the 1,237,063 people of Jamaica, with branch libraries in each of the 13 parishes. The parish is the equivalent of our county. This would bring the advantages of the large unit to all the people of the Island, advantages in larger book stock and trained personnel. It also means a strong skeleton system which later could be indefinitely filled out as the needs and, we may hope, the revenues of Jamaica grow.

It was of particular interest to observe in Jamaica the tacit recognition that if a country is to progress it must march forward on several fronts simultaneously. There is some realization of what Mr. Lilienthal in his epoch-making book "The TVA: Democracy on the March" calls the "seamless web" of community progress. We have to admit, I think, that in Canada one front which has suffered from near-paralysis for twenty years is the library front in rural Canada. How to change that paralysis into a steady progressive march is surely the main problem confronting Canadian librarians today.

Local Wartime History in the Charlottetown Public Library

Soon after war was declared, librarians were reminded of the urgent need of preserving all war-time material. In an article in the Ontario Library Review, Mr. Fred Landon, Librarian of the University of Western Ontario, suggested different projects that libraries might carry out, and urged, "There is only one time to glean this material, that is when it first appears". The making of a vertical file "Scrapbook" of local war activities was undertaken in the Charlottetown Public Library. This comprises the daily task of clipping items from a Charlottetown daily paper and mounting each one on a separate sheet; the date of the clipping is written on the sheet, and a general subject heading, with detailed subdivision if necessary, is assigned to it. The sheets are then placed in folders for the different general headings, and within the folder arranged alphabetically according to the subdivisions.

A glimpse at the file will give one an idea of the material it contains and how it is arranged. In general, the clippings belong to two classes of local wartime news - the doings of those in active service in the war, and activities on the home front. The careers of men and women in His Majesty's forces may be followed through the different folders - their "Enlistments", "Promotions", "Casualties". One folder contains "Photographs" and another "Personal experiences" which have appeared in the press. Another subject which is growing all the time is "Awards" to Prince Edward Islanders. Most of these subjects are subdivided under the names of the persons concerned, e.g. a heading on one sheet might be; Awards - MacLean, A.

The civilian side of war is recorded through clippings telling of the work of the "Canadian Legion", "Canadian Red Cross Corps" etc. and describing "Blackouts", "Civilian Defence" and "Blood Donors' Clinics". Some news items which may not be strictly provincial are clipped because of some connection with P.E.I. In the file "Disasters" one finds an account of the torpedoing of S.S. Cariboo in Oct. 1942; three Islanders were lost in this sinking. There is included also news of the corvette "H.M.C.S. Charlottetown", and of the frigate which was given the name after the corvette was sunk.

Considerable time each day is necessary for the compiling of this file. However, it is felt that this information will be of the greatest interest to the community, a few years hence, and it is definitely worthwhile to preserve it and make it readily accessible.

CANADIAN PATENT OFFICE RECORD

Miss Jean Gill, librarian of the Legislative and Public Library, Charlottetown, wonders if there are any libraries having copies of the Canadian Patent Office Record prior to 1930 which they do not want. If there are, she would like them to get in touch with her.

Library Service in Saskatchewan

Through its newly-created Department of Libraries, SASKATCHEWAN is to get an extension and improvement of its library service. This government department includes the Legislative Library, Travelling Libraries and Open Shelf Library (the name of which is being changed to Public Information Library). Older books are being discarded from the Public Information Library, and books, periodicals and pamphlets added to bring it up-to-date. A new juvenile section will be established. This library service by mail is free to all the citizens of the province. There will be a close connection between the Public Information Library and the Adult Education Department. The Travelling Libraries will have popular biographies and books on current events added to the fiction formerly supplied. Boxes containing fifty books are sent out to rural areas by the Travelling Libraries.

REFERENCE CORNER

Miss Tremaine of the Toronto Public Library kindly supplied the following answer to a question in the last Bulletin:

"Rex Woods is an artist living at 707 Eglinton Ave. W., Toronto. I do not know if he does sculpture but he appears in periodicals as illustrator from time to time (e.g. Christmas number of Canadian Home Journal)."

A receipt for preserving leaves was received from Miss Tremaine and from Mrs. Laura Mair, Georgetown, P.E.I.; it was forwarded to the library asking for it.

The Public Library - A people's university

Overheard in the Juvenile Room of the Moncton Public Library:
Johnny: "Here's a good book, Mary, why don't you take it?"
Mary: "I want a big book so I can educate myself."

Notes and News

Halifax Library Club Miss Dorothy MacKay writes: "At the January meeting of the Club Miss Anna Ritchie, Liverpool, who has been studying Vocational Guidance at Columbia University, gave an interesting talk on that subject. Miss Ritchie dealt with the educational training for vocational counsellors and gave a brief account of the work undertaken so far in the Nova Scotia school system.

At the February meeting, when the program was largely musical, we had a particularly interesting group of recordings which included a series done by the famous lute singer, Richard Dyer-Bennett."

Moncton Mrs. Berdia F. Moore sends the following notes: "The Friends of the Library continue to function and are showing a keen interest in the proposed new Library Building, which is to be a War Memorial. The City Council will seek legislation to issue debentures for \$50,000 to establish a library and to permit the City to purchase or acquire property for such a building if the citizens will raise an equal amount. The bill is to come before this session of the Provincial House.

Members of the Library Board and Friends of the Library were invited to meet with the Art Society to discuss the prospects of having one of the Cultural and Art Centres in Moncton, as one of the Federal projects.

At the January meeting of the Library Board it was decided to send a delegation before the City Council at its next meeting to ask for an increase in the grant as the present sum is inadequate to carry on the regular work of the library and purchase new books as well.

Sgt. M.E. Condon of the W.D., R.C.A.F. is new librarian at the R.C.A.F. Station, Trenton, Ontario. Miss Condon was formerly Assistant Librarian here."

St. Stephen "The annual meeting of the St. Croix Library Association was held Jan. 20 in the Library with the president, Miss Anna Laubman, presiding. Reports from committees were satisfactory although not as many patrons registered in 1944 as during the previous year.

The librarian, Miss Ray Cawley, stated that 664 books were catalogued and placed on the shelves during the past year as against 250 the previous year. Of these, 50 were new gifts. High School students had been furnished with material for reading, and rural districts were given whatever material was available. Magazines were donated to the I.O.D.E. for their service libraries. Two traveling libraries were secured from the McGill Traveling Library Service in 1944. The book purchasing committee supplied current fiction and non-fiction at a total cost per book of \$1.17.

Librarian Resigns

It was with keen regret that the association received the resignation of Miss Cawley as librarian. Appreciation of the great service she has given was expressed in a resolution placed before the meeting." (Saint John Telegraph Journal)

Yarmouth Miss Isabel MacDonald, Librarian, says: "The Yarmouth Public Library is still carrying on in small quarters. About 1000 books have been added to the shelves this year - a good percentage of them for Juvenile and Teen-age Girls. As shelf space is limited we are buying only the books most requested.

As yet no definite arrangements have been made for a new building. A piece of land has been given by the Town so it only remains for us to get plans drawn and to raise the money to finance such a building."

Hopewell Cape, N.B. Viscount Bennett's gift to the Silver Jubilee Library has provided for some renovation of the library building. The President, Mr. Ernest Wallace, writes that the Committee is planning also for the purchase of new books out of the fund.

Emily Carr, Artist and Author, 1871-1945
By the Editor

Canada lost a great painter and writer when Miss Emily Carr died at Victoria, British Columbia on March 2, 1945. Miss Carr lived in Victoria most of her life, with interludes in San Francisco, London and Paris, where she studied art.

From childhood days she took a great interest in the beauty of nature in the wild, and she travelled a great deal about northern British Columbia, visiting Indian villages and sketching their totem poles. Victoria strongly disapproved of her unconventional paintings, but just after the first World War, Eric Brown, Director of the Canadian National Gallery, discovered her work and arranged an exhibition; the encouragement she received inspired her to go on painting more industriously than ever. In the period since that time she has painted a great many pictures on a variety of subjects. Best known are her canvases depicting Indian totem poles and West Coast scenery. In a recent article, Mr. B.K. Sandwell said of the latter: "These marvellous paintings of the British Columbia coast-land make sure her lasting fame as a great artist.... All of them have magnificent rhythm and design coupled with an intensity and vividness which brand them on the memory.... It is a fine achievement, ranking with the best work of our time, in which Canadians can feel a just pride".

Miss Carr was a doubly-gifted woman - an artist with words as well as with colors. For many years she made a practice of setting down her memorable experiences in prose that has the rhythm and skilful word-selection of poetry; only recently she was persuaded to publish these sketches, and let the public enjoy their distinctive qualities. Her first book, appearing in 1941, gave twenty-one pen portraits of life among the Indians of the West Coast that are as vivid as her striking paintings. Next came the delightful "Book of Small", a deeply perceptive record of childhood impressions, and glimpses of Victoria from the time of her father's coming to Canada. This winter was published "House of all sorts", an account of Miss Carr's experience in running a "Guest house" with clever portrayals of people she met during that period. Let us hope she has left other writings that can be made into books as charming and original as these three.